

BIGFORK FIRE DISTRICT TRUSTEE

October 27th, 2020

5:30pm

This meeting was conducted via ZOOM. The public was able to join this meeting at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84916561701>

Trustees: Dan Elwell, Gary Wilson, Andrew Sliter, Robert Borges (via Zoom)

Absent Trustees: Seth Price

Guests: Chief-Mark Thiry, Jeremy Patton, Andrea Alvarez, Joseph Bakker

Guests on via Zoom: Cindy Norred

This meeting was recorded.

1. **Call Meeting to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:** 17:34
2. **General Public Comment:** No public comment
3. **Review/Approval of meeting minutes September 29th, 2020:** I move that we approve the minutes from September 29th, 2020, Wilson (1st), Borges (2nd), no comments, all in favor, none opposed.
4. **Review/Approval of Purchase Orders:** None were presented
5. **Review/Approval of Reconciliation of Financial Statements and Bills Paid:** A motion to approve financial statements, Wilson(1st), Borges (2nd), no comments, all in favor, none opposed.
6. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Building Committee:** Wilson has the signs, spelled correctly and will be getting together with Borges to put them up. The district received a 2nd denial letter from traffic engineer for the approach. District board will continue on trying to get the approach approved.
 - B. **Vehicle Committee:**
 - (i) **Vehicle from Sheriff's Dept.:** District is still on track for purchasing the truck. County had to publish at meeting that truck is up for bid. We will have to wait until their next meeting to award the bid. The new ambulance on order is still being built.
7. **Fire Chief's Report:** See attached report

8. **Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to MCA 2-3-203 (3):** *Went into closed session*

at 18:31

9. **Reconvene into Open Session:** Back from closed session, opened session at 18:51.

10. **Old Business**

- A. **Hire outside entity for QA/QI reviews:** Thiry would like to do a trial run for a few months with the individual. He thinks it will benefit the Fire Department having an outside set of eyes reviewing. Thiry is recommending Mary Granger be hired at \$17.00 to do reviews. He feels that there will be problems with the collective bargaining with those doing reviews now when they go union. This is usually performed at a supervisory level, which we are not large enough to have. Granger is ok with a trial run per Thiry. Sliter suggest if we had to go back to a peer review thing, if Granger could run a training session at some point in the trial period that is well balanced and objective training would be great for the employees. If she is willing to help train out, that would be a great addition to what Thiry is proposing. A motion to approve a trial period at the Chiefs discretion to engage with this third-party quality assurance for review of medical call reports. Sliter (1st), Wilson (2nd), no comments, all in favor, none opposed.
- B. **Logging of Echo Lake Property:** D & S logging is in the process of getting a permit from the DNRC to do this and a contract with Stoltze Lumber to haul lumber.
- C. **Legal opinion on MCA 7-33-2116:** When there is an injury, there is a gap in workers comp on pay. This MCA basically says the district will pay the difference in workers comp payout. Attorney says yes, we would have to pay this. There is some admin stuff that will need to be done and will contact Montana State Fund for amounts. Discussions on when it needs to be compensated. Board would like admin to look into it more.

11. New Business:

- A. Termination of JS:** District tried to get ahold of him, with no response. Has not been active for two years. Thiry recommends putting a stipulation in the motion on this item that if we hear from him, we will give some consideration based on the particulars of the case. A motion to approve termination of JS.
Sliter (1st), Wilson (2nd), no comments, all in favor, none opposed.
- B. Create line item 354-1 Other Operating Services and fund it at \$2500 from the Operating Station Supplies account:** Norred explained it would be for separating purchase service like pest control, mowing from the supplies. A motion to create line item 354-1 Other Operating Services and fund at \$2500 from Operating Station Supplies, Wilson (1st), Borges (2nd) no comments, all in favor, none opposed.
- C. 9/11 Memorial Watch boot donations \$1350.23:** Thiry is recommending more of a formal resolution as to where the money raised goes, wanting some more direction from the board. Board discussion on ideas where money will go. Thiry and Wilson will look into more places where the district might donate the money. Regular annual donations were given that day which is not included in total. A motion to table, Borges (1st), Sliter (2nd), no comments, all in favor, none opposed.
- D. Covid-19 Employee Compensation:** Advised by legal and state laws to provide 80 hrs. After talking with legal some are up to 96hrs, that the district should compensate for loss hrs. District will follow the stipulations on quarantine and COVID. There is a form that must be signed. Fed funds is 80hrs. Move to adopt COVID-19 Employee Emergency Paid Sick Leave that mirrors federal guidance on award with an excess to 96 hr. regular two week for department personnel.
Sliter (1st) Wilson (2nd) all in favor, none opposed.

- E. **Enter MOU for County-Wide AFG Radio Grant:** County is trying to get a federal grant for radios. 90/10 grant that is a regional grant for all fire departments. A motion from the board authorizing chairman as signer for the department to enter in Memo Of Understanding for county wide AFG radio grant program, Sliter (1st), Wilson (2nd), no comments, all in favor, none opposed..
- F. **Consider offering Aflac supplemental insurance:** Does not cost the district. Need three employees to participate to qualify. A motion to consider offering Aflac supplemental insurance based on review of existing staff and whether or not our group qualifies, Sliter (1st), Borges (2nd), no comments, all in favor, none opposed. Sliter commented on that when you offer a health plan and then people are also opting in to an Aflac plan, in high percentage wise, it may be an indicator that what we really need is a better health plan.


12. **General Public Comment:** No public comment

13. **Motion to Adjourn:** Wilson (1st), Sliter (2nd) all in favor, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned: 18:52

Minutes Approved:


_____, Trustee


_____, Recorder